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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration

ONE OF THE BUREAU'S REGIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL and INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY

Louis B. Howard, Chief

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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY
85 YEARS OLD

THE Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry is one of the oldest agencies in the United States Department of Agriculture. It was established as the Division of Chemistry in 1862, became the Bureau of Chemistry in 1901, the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils in 1927, the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering in 1938, and the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry in 1943.

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The first scientific position in what is now the Department of Agriculture was that of chemist, established in 1862. The first scientific publication to emanate from the Department was a report on the Chemical Analysis of Grapes issued in 1862. Since then Bureau scientists have produced more than 10,000 publications on the results of their investigations.

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Today the Bureau consists of the four Regional Research Laboratories established in 1938 to search for new and wider industrial outlets and markets for agricultural commodities and 21 other laboratories and field stations in various parts of the country. Its work requires the services of approximately 1,300 persons, more than half of whom are chemists, physicists, engineers, and other highly trained scientists. The Bureau devotes most of its attention to a search for new and wider industrial outlets for farm crops, and to improving methods for the commercial processing of food and feed, in the hope of increasing farm income.

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Bureau accomplishments have influenced our lives in many ways. Bureau scientists developed methods for increasing the yield of penicillin more than 100 times and enabled industry to start the early production of this important new drug on a commercial scale. They developed new technical methods for the production of fast, brilliant dyes for cotton which resulted in the gay, fast colors men and women are wearing today. Its scientists developed methods that are giving producers of turpentine and rosin over a million dollars a year more than they were receiving a few years ago. The ethylene gas treatment of ripe but green-colored citrus fruit that brings out the yellow color so desired by the consumer is the result of work by Bureau scientists.

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Recent accomplishments include the development of four new synthetic fibers from agricultural raw materials, the chemical treatment of low-grade cotton fabric that gives it a linenlike appearance, the production of a potential motor fuel from corncobs, paint brushes from milk casein, shotgun shell casings using soybean protein adhesive, a method for keeping farm-produced lard fresh for a year or more, a new drug called rutin from buckwheat that is being used in treating some forms of high blood pressure, and a substitute for cork from peanut shells.

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The Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, which is sometimes called the chemurgic agency for the Department because of the nature of much of its work, has also played an important part in finding new uses for agricultural residues or waste products. It has developed a method for making a fiber from chicken feathers, a soft-grit blasting material from corncobs and rice hulls that can be used in cleaning carbon and grease from automobile and airplane engines, and a valuable poultry feed from waste vegetable leaves and stems.

Laboratories and Field Stations
# of the
Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry

Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, Ill.
G. E. Hilbert, Director.
Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, La.
Walter M. Scott, Director
Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pa.
P. A. Wells, Director
Western Regional Research Laboratory, Albany, Calif.
M. J. Copley, Director
Agricultural Chemical Research Division, New Orleans, La.
L. F. Martin, Head
U. S. Citrus Products Laboratory, Winter Haven, Fla.
M. K. Veldhuis, In Charge
U. S. Fruit & Vegetable Products Laboratory, Weslaco, Tex.
W. C. Scott, In Charge
Sugarcane and Sorgo Investigations, Baton Rouge, La.
E. K. Ventre, In Charge
U.S.D.A. Sugarcane Field Station, Houma, La.
R. T. Balch, In Charge
Sorgo Sugar Investigations, Meridian, Miss.
Sam Byall, In Charge
Tung Oil Laboratory, Gainesville, Fla.
R. S. McKinney, In Charge
Tung Oil Laboratory, Bogalusa, La.
R. L. Holmes, In Charge
Sweetpotato Feed Investigations, Auburn, Ala.
W. T. Schreiber, In Charge
Food Fermentation Investigations, Raleigh, N. C.
J. L. Etchells, In Charge
Biologically Active Chemical Compounds, Beltsville, Md.
T. D. Fontaine, Acting Head
Enzyme and Phytochemical Research Division, Albany, Calif.
A. K. Balls, Head
Fruit and Vegetable Chemistry Laboratory, Los Angeles, Calif.
E. A. Beavens, In Charge
Fruit and Vegetable Products Laboratory, Pullman, Wash.
A. M. Neubert, In Charge
Microbiology Research Division, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mathilde Solowey, Acting Head
Pharmacology Laboratory, Albany, Calif.
Floyd DeEds, Head
Naval Stores Research Division, New Orleans, La.
E. L. Patton, Head
Naval Stores Station, Olustee, Fla.
G. P. Shingler, In Charge
Allergen Research Division, Washington, D. C.
H. Stevens, Head
U. S. Natural Rubber Research Station, Salinas, Calif.
I. C. Feustel, Head
Synthetic Liquid Fuels Project, Peoria, Ill.
John W. Dunning, In Charge

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